

1968

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP75-00149R000200310106-2

Stopping up production and our rate of growth will not provide jobs for those who lack useful skills or experience who are barred by custom or prejudice from employment for which they may be fitted.

Instead of benefiting as a Nation from the energies and innate abilities of these potential workers, we will have to bear the social and economic costs of their idleness, their frustration, and in many cases their bitterness and hostility to their communities and everyone around them.

To avoid this social alienation and this waste of valuable human resources, we must step up our efforts to improve our educational system and, equally important, to strengthen the motivations for self-improvement.

This is a challenge to all of us, as private individuals, as businessmen, as public officials, as people who care about their fellow men and women.

Our economy falls short of its potential when earning power and consumer buying power are inadequate to maintain a higher rate of growth.

The development of our human resources is, thus, a matter of concern to each of us.

And in view of our domestic and international responsibilities and our world competition, it is a matter of pressing national interest.

Our most urgent domestic economic business is, of course, the need to lighten the heavy Federal tax burden which is depressing our rate of economic growth.

The President's tax program includes reductions of corporate income taxes to provide both incentive and the means for greater business investment to create additional jobs.

This will help to bring down the rate of unemployment by creating new jobs for those whose unemployment is due, not to lack of marketable skills, but to inadequate consumer demand.

Further lowering of our jobless rate will depend heavily upon our ability to upgrade our present labor force and to do a better job of preparing the more than 1 million new workers entering the labor force each year.

To do this, we must improve our public schools and stimulate our students to develop their abilities to the fullest.

We must expand our community junior colleges and our special facilities for vocational and technical training.

We must also expand our senior colleges and universities.

Our ablest young people also must be better prepared to deal with the complex problems of this technological age.

And we must strive unceasingly to remove those barriers in every industry and every community which deny Americans the opportunity to obtain the best education and the best jobs of which they are capable.

To further these efforts, the President has proposed a comprehensive program of Federal assistance for education and vocational training.

This program emphasizes the special areas of need—the expansion of our community college programs, for example, and the improvement of teacher training and teaching research, the expansion of vocational education, the improvement of our public libraries, and the expansion of our adult education and adult literacy programs.

But the greatest responsibility for doing all of these things falls upon our States and our local communities.

The development of our human resources is a matter of national concern, but the obligation to see that this development takes place rests upon each of us in his capacity as a citizen of a community and a State, as well as a citizen of these United States.

This challenge to us as southerners is especially great.

While it is true that the southerners are not alone in this problem, we are the only ones who are not making the full use of these resources for the benefit of the Nation.

We have made great progress in the South in the last few decades. This is reflected in the rapid increase in southern per capita incomes.

Since 1929, when it was only half the national average, per capita income in the South has increased by almost 400 percent. This compares with a 200-percent increase for the Nation as a whole.

But we cannot let this dramatic progress blind us to the fact that per capita income in the South is still only 76 percent of the national average.

Today, our national economy is operating at about 82 billion below capacity.

Our consumer demand and investment demand are this much below what is necessary for full utilization of our available man-power and productive facilities.

Yet, if per capita income in the South were raised to the level of the rest of the Nation, this would generate enough additional spending and investment to restore this country to full employment.

The whole country suffers when any part lags in the development of its natural resources, in the education of its youth, or in the earning power of its people.

The South has made substantial progress in its agriculture.

The region, you know, has more cropland than all of the rest of the Nation.

But we are still hampered by generations of inadequate conservation which permitted the depletion of our soils.

Southern farmers have had to pay more than half of the Nation's fertilizer bill to overcome these deficiencies, and they have had to do it out of about one quarter of our total national farm income.

The South has about three quarters of the Nation's commercial forest land, and we have made striking progress in developing this great resource.

But we have to overcome generations of chronic overcutting and inadequate fire protection and restocking which reduced our total timber stand to less than one-third of the national total.

Southern industrial progress in recent years has been a source of justifiable pride for us all.

The trend of modern technology is turning in the South's direction—emphasizing wood pulp, petrochemicals, petroleum, and other southern products as basic industrial raw materials.

The South has all of the Nation's reserves of natural sulfur and bauxite.

It has 65 percent of the Nation's petroleum; 75 percent of its natural gas, phosphate, and titanium; half of the Nation's clay and coal; and it ranks very high in the rare-earth metals that are so important in this space age.

Yet, value added per worker in manufacturing in the South lags behind the value added per worker in the Nation as whole.

And this shows up in the comparable lag in incomes of southern families headed by a year-round, full-time worker.

This lag underscores the vital importance of improving the education and technical skills of our people—to raise their productivity and their earning power, and consequently the level of per capita income in the South.

We have made great progress in our public schools.

But we can and we must do more.

We have further to go than other parts of the country to lift the educational level of our people to the standards imposed by a modern technological society.

The latest census figures show that the median number of years of schooling coun-

tered by southerners is a full year below the national average and more than 2 years below the level of the Western States.

Our school expenditures are only 91 percent of the national average—260 per pupil compared with 275 for the Nation as a whole.

We must invest more in education to overcome our deficiencies in classroom space, in teachers' salaries, and in teaching equipment—to improve the quality as well as the quantity of our educational effort.

We also must be concerned about the quality of the employment opportunities we make available to the young people we educate at such great cost.

I want to be very frank about this last point.

We cannot continue to waste the talents of our Negro citizens if we ever hope to raise the South to its full economic potential.

We cannot afford to employ in menial jobs educated Negro men and women who are qualified for better jobs.

We cannot let the talents of a Negro engineer be wasted in sweeping floors, in digging mail, or in digging ditches.

We cannot use trained stenographers as maids.

We cannot make trained electricians rake yards, or use as construction laborers men who have the training to be draftsmen.

One of the reasons our per capita income is so low is the widespread underemployment of Negroes in our labor force.

Less than half of our Negro families are headed by persons with full-time, year-round jobs.

Too many Negro men and women are confined to jobs which produce little for themselves or for those who employ them—to jobs which in other parts of the country have been eliminated by machines, with a resulting rise in the average productivity and average incomes of the people in those areas.

The right to seek a job in keeping with one's ability—and have a reasonable prospect of finding such a job—is fundamental to my concept of freedom and equality of opportunity in a free enterprise economy and a free society.

For the South, this matter of better job opportunities for our Negro citizens is an economic necessity, as well as a duty imposed by our sense of fairness and right.

With constructive local leadership such as you have been showing here in Memphis and with growing public awareness of the importance of developing our region's human resources to the fullest, we can make great progress in this area of better job opportunities in the next few years.

The South has a great opportunity to demonstrate to the Nation and to the world both its capacity for orderly change and the extent of its faith in its future.

Those of us who know the South and love the South and its people cannot doubt that this region has a great destiny to lead both in our national economic growth and in the development of a deeper understanding of the meaning of practical human brotherhood.

Challenging opportunities produce growth, and I am confident that the South has only begun its growth to greatness in our time. Thank you, and my best wishes to you all.

PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. DOMINICK, Mr. President, yesterday the distinguished Senior Senator from Nebraska (Mr. CURTIS), spoke in detail and with great care on the problems involved in our disarmament negotiations and in support of his resolution designed to give the U.S. Senate a voice in the acceptance or rejection of any